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www.dhs.lacounty.gov

To ensure access to high-quality, patient-centered, cost-effective health care to Los Angeles County residents through direct services at DHS facilities and through collaboration with community and university partners.



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May 5, 2014

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Mitchell H. Katz, M.D.
Director

SUBJECT: **ORCHID ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD "GO LIVE"
DATE CHANGE**

After consultation with the Electronic Health Record (EHR) project teams, I believe that it is best that we postpone the target August 1, 2014 "Go Live" date for the Online Real-Time Centralized Health Information Database (ORCHID) EHR at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center to November 1, 2014.

The original date was chosen nearly 2 years ago, and was partly predicated on the need to "Go Live" prior to the scheduled conversion from ICD-9 to ICD-10. As you are aware, last month, the ICD-10 conversion was postponed by the federal government to October 2015 or beyond, allowing greater flexibility in the timing and sequence of ORCHID "Go Live" dates.

The combined Department of Health Services (DHS), Cerner, and third party vendor teams have made excellent progress on achieving a single standard build for the ORCHID EHR that will be applied to all DHS facilities. This unified approach is a first for DHS and represents the work of hundreds of DHS, Cerner, and third-party-vendor personnel.

Postponing the "Go Live" date will allow us to ensure that the training curriculum and the training materials are completely targeted to the users and their use of ORCHID. As well, it will ensure that interfaces are implemented to all necessary external systems in order to increase the level of automation, reduce cost and effort, and improve system responsiveness.

This decision will also change:

The "Go Live" date for MLK to February 1, 2015; and
The "Go Live" date for LAC+USC Medical Center to May 1, 2015.

The remaining facilities will be deployed on the original schedule.

Moving the "Go Live" dates will not impact the deployment sequence of ORCHID to the facilities, the scope of the EHR solution, the cost of ORCHID to the County, or the incentive payments.

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We are making this decision now because it is recommended that staff train on a new system within two months of the "Go Live". Were we to start training staff on June 1st, and then not be able to make the August 1st date, staff would require retraining.

Given the challenges of changing computer systems while operating hospitals, I feel it is much more important for the start of the system to be a success than to rush the start.

As always, I am available for any questions or concerns at (213) 240-8101 or by cell phone.

MHK:jp

c: Chief Executive Office
County Counsel
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors